

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 2 of 16

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below in the following CLAIM LISTING.

CLAIM LISTING:

1-157. (Cancelled).

158. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising:
a first layer of substantially parallel first yarns; and
a second layer of substantially parallel second yarns;
the first and second yarns being substantially perpendicular to one another and the
first and second layers being adhered together with an adhesive ~~that is~~, wherein:

(a) the adhesive is applied to one side of the first layer of substantially parallel
yarns in a discontinuous manner;

(b) the adhesive forms random bridges between substantially parallel yarns of the
first layer; and

(c) the adhesive is located substantially only between the first and second layers
of the adhered together substantially perpendicular yarns
~~and is discontinuous, and includes bridges of adhesive between parallel yarns .~~

159. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 158, wherein
the adhesive is on only one side of the first yarns.

160. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 159, wherein
the substantially parallel first yarns in the first layer are held together to form a sheet by
the bridges of the adhesive which prevent twisting of the individual first yarns in the first
layer.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 3 of 16

161. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 159, wherein the adhesive is on the one side of the first yarns at a level of from about 5 weight percent to about 25 weight percent, based upon the total weight of the sheet of the first yarns.

162. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 161, wherein the total weight of the sheet of the first yarns is about 50 g/m^2 and the adhesive weight is about 2 to 15 g/m^2 .

163. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 161, wherein the total weight of the sheet of the first yarns is about 50 g/m^2 and the adhesive weight is about 5 to 10 g/m^2 .

164. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the first yarns are selected from the group consisting of polymer fibers, natural fibers, synthetic fibers, composite fibers, carbon fibers, glass fibers, metallic fibers and graphite.

165. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 164, wherein the polymer fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, rayon, polypropylene and nylon fibers.

166. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 164, wherein the natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of cotton fibers and wool fibers.

167. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 164, wherein the metal fibers are selected from the group consisting of copper, gold, aluminum, silver and platinum.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 4 of 16

168. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 164, wherein one or more of the first yarns are glass fibers.

169. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the substantially parallel first yarns have been formed in a warp-direction and supported and bonded on only one side by the adhesive.

170. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 169, wherein the adhesive has been applied to the first yarns by dip/nip saturation, spraying, gravure coating, or kiss coating.

171. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 170, wherein the adhesive has a thickness of about 0.25 mil to about 1 mil.

172. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 170, wherein the adhesive is a heat activatable adhesive.

173. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 172, wherein the adhesive is a hot melt adhesive.

174. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 173, wherein the adhesive is a hot melt copolyester polymer.

175. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 170, wherein the adhesive is a scrim or lace web of adhesive or a meltblown adhesive.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 5 of 16

176. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the adhesive is from about 5 to 20 percent by weight of the total weight of the fabric.

177. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 176, wherein the adhesive is from about 10 to 15 percent by weight of the total weight of the fabric.

178. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the second yarns extend at an angle of about 80 degrees to about 89.7 degrees relative to the first yarns.

179. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 178, wherein the second yarns extend at an angle of about 85 to about 89.7 degrees relative to the first yarns.

180. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the first yarns are equally spaced apart and the second yarns are equally spaced apart.

181. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of any one of claims 158-163, wherein the first layer and/or the second layer has a density of at least 40 yarns per inch in a transverse direction of the yarns.

182. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 181, wherein the first layer and/or the second layer has a density of between 40 and 140 yarns per inch in a transverse direction of the yarns.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 6 of 16

183. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 182, wherein the first layer and/or the second layer has a density of between 60 and 100 yarns per inch in a transverse direction of the yarns.

184. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 183, wherein the first layer has a density of 40 to 90 yarns per inch of 30/1 to 36/1 count yarn.

185. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 183, wherein the second layer has a density of 90 to 140 yarns per inch of 36/1 count yarn.

186. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 164, wherein the second yarns are selected from the group consisting of polymer fibers, natural fibers, synthetic fibers, composite fibers, carbon fibers, glass fibers, metallic fibers and graphite.

187. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein the polymer fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, rayon, polypropylene and nylon fibers.

188. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein the natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of cotton fibers and wool fibers.

189. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein the metal fibers are independently selected from the group consisting of copper, gold, aluminum, silver and platinum.

190. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein one or more of the second yarns are glass fibers.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 7 of 16

191. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein one or more of the first yarns are spun polyester yarns.

192. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 186, wherein one or more of the second yarns are single strand cotton yarns.

193. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 169, wherein the second yarns have been formed in a weft-direction and a side of the second yarns are supported by, and adhered to, the one side of the first yarns by the adhesive, applied to only the one side of the first yarns.

194. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193 which has a weft-direction strength equal to its warp-direction strength.

195. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193, wherein the denier of all the first and second yarns is approximately the same.

196. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193, wherein the denier of some of the first yarns is different and/or the denier of some of the second yarns is different.

197. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193, wherein the denier of all the first yarns is the same and the denier of all the second yarns is the same.

198. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193, wherein the denier of the first yarns is different from the denier of the second yarns.

Final Rejection Response
U.S.S.N. 09/869,941
Page 8 of 16

199. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric of claim 193, wherein some of the second yarns are of a smaller denier than the first yarns.

REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK